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December 14, 2001

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Priscilla Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils

RE: Technical Field Visit, Trenching Abatement to NOV 01-7-1-1, Energy West Mining, Des Bee Dove Mines, C/015/017

Other Attendees: Dennis Oakley, Energy West Mining
Dan Larsen, Environmental Industrial Services
Kimbell Rasmussen, Nielsen Construction

Date & Time: December 3, 2001 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm

PURPOSE: To evaluate soils exposed by trenching in the Little Dove and Beehive portal pad as proposed by AM01C in response to NOV 01-7-1-1.

OBSERVATIONS:

Six inches of snow covered the upper pad (Beehive and Little Dove portals). A trackhoe dug two trenches (T1 & T1A and T2 & T2A) up to 22 feet deep through the upper pad. A sandstone ledge was found below the pad at a depth of about four feet. The ledge extended from the Beehive portal out approximately 130 feet. The sandstone rock forming the ledge was bright yellow in color. Above the rock in the vicinity of the Little Dove portal (T1), the profile was as follows: gravelly soil (road base) from 0 – 15 inches; refuse mixed with road base (from 15 – 28 inches); orange and gray clay (from 28 – 37 inches); coal fines (from 37 to 48 inches); and, an intermittent layer of bright orange clay overlying the rock.

The surface layer (12 inches) of the Beehive pad is thought to be road base and was more than 50% gravels. The edge of the pad was comprised of fill. Very few boulders were encountered. Medium and coarse roots were numerous to a depth of three feet on outslope (T2).

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

In the vicinity of the Beehive pad, the fill overlying the sandstone was a homogenous mix of the layers described above (T2A).

Mr. Dan Larsen took detailed field notes on a NRCS 232 Form. Samples were taken of each layer noted in the Little Dove pit and a representative sample was taken of the surface of the pad (T1, T2A), the Beehive outslope (T1A and T2) and two samples were drawn from the bottom of the 22 foot deep trench (T1A & T2).

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

Samples should be analyzed according to the information provided in AM01C. As discussed during the field visit, the best available soils for the site appears to be in the Little Dove/Beehive outslope. A depth of three feet looks promising for salvage and storage during the reclamation operation.

Photos taken during the site visit are located in O:015017.dbd/IMAGES/12032001.

cc: All Attendees
Price Field Office
O:\015017.DBD\Compliance\2001\FV1203.doc